

The ESC CONNECTION

SPRING 2017



THE ART OF PUBLIC SPEAKING

ESC'S GIFTED & TALENTED PROGRAMS
ENABLE STUDENTS TO LEARN NEW SKILLS

PAGE 8-9



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Superintendent's Message

By Dr. Bob Mengerink, *Superintendent*



Dear Colleagues,

It's unbelievable that we are approaching the end of yet another school year. With changes coming from both the state and federal level – any many still unknown – I want to restate our commitment to helping districts navigate these changes. Whether districts need updates

on policy and budget changes, support in meeting new requirements, or additional services to accomplish the goals of your district, we stand ready to help. We are continually increasing our capacity to generate new

programs and services to ensure we can always respond to any need you have. Our staff also maintains close working relationships with staff from the Ohio Department of Education and other state-level associations and committees. Our intent is to always provide you with the most up-to-date information to make sure your staff can focus on the actual work of teaching and learning.

Please do not hesitate, at any time, to reach out to any of our staff with questions. In the meantime, best wishes for a safe and peaceful summer.

Sincerely,

Bob Mengerink

JUNE 13 + 14, 2017
8:00 AM - 3:30 PM

@STRONGSVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL

.....

\$99 / INDIVIDUAL
\$79 / PRE-SERVICE STUDENTS
\$499 / TEAM RATE
5-6 Team Members



1st Annual
Curriculum + Technology Conference



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Kevin Honeycutt

We asked our network of coaches
 "What are the challenges you're
 being asked to address?"

**USING TECHNOLOGY TO
 DRIVE PEDAGOGY.
 NOT TO REPLACE IT.**

This is a conference for
 superintendents, administrators,
 instructional coaches, teachers,
 students, and other interested
 educators.

SUBMIT A PROPOSAL
goo.gl/Byj6tJ
 Deadline March 8, 2017

.....

REGISTER HERE
goo.gl/2bvbsn

.....

MORE INFORMATION? CONTACT
 TRACY SPIES @216.901.4244

The 19th Annual Summer & Beyond Fair

The ESC of Cuyahoga County presented the 19th Annual Summer and Beyond Fair for children and youth with disabilities on Saturday, February 18th. Held at St. Michael Woodside in Broadview Heights, hundreds of people visited and talked to representatives from camps and organizations from around Ohio. There were free fingerprint ID cards, face painting by Dixie, flower clown entertainment, and a wonderful performance by Dancing Wheels. The Cleveland Indians' Slider even made a special appearance. Each year the ESC produces a "Summer and Beyond Directory" for families. Visit www.esc-cc.org to download a copy.

This activity is funded in whole or part by IDEA, Title VI B, and Grants to States through Ohio Department of Education grants to Educational Service Center of Cuyahoga County, Fiscal Agent for SST Region 3.

[Click here](#) for video highlights.





NEOSTEM Meeting

Representatives from Northeast Ohio businesses, non-profits, and community organizations with interests in supporting economic and educational growth in STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) fields have organized a NEOSTEM Ecosystems group. The group's NEOSTEM Education Cluster is planning after school programs for students to develop content knowledge and skills in digital literacy, computational thinking, computer science. On February 9th, the group convened at the ESC of Cuyahoga County to consider specific educational activities.

One proposed project will involve students building Soap Box Derby cars that are technologically-enhanced or autonomous and which can then better serve the needs of all participants, including those with disabilities. An arts-related project will explore digital wearable technology,

such as bracelets or T-shirts with LED or circuits that can measure heart rate or pulse when wearers are engaged in physical activity. Such a project can involve students in gym classes, sports activities, or may be enhanced to monitor medical or other special needs of wearers. A third group is collaborating to develop a database of programs throughout Northeast Ohio to raise awareness of groups and organizations supporting STEM education and activities.

For information, contact:

Bob Glavan, ESC Curriculum Consultant

bob.glavan@esc-cc.org

or

Alyssa Briggs, NEOSTEM Coordinator

alyssajlbriggs@gmail.com

ESC Board Member Frank Mahnic, Jr. Receives Award of Achievement

The Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA) annually recognizes board members for their commitment to learning and leadership with the Award of Achievement program. Board members earn credits toward the award by enrolling and participating in workshops and conferences, volunteering for service to their association and working on behalf of their own board. The Award of Achievement is a special honor and distinction available only to Ohio school board members.



Every Kid in the Park

Cuyahoga Valley National Park is providing free programs to 4th Grade students for the Every Kid in the Park program. Educators that work with 4th grade students within Cleveland or the inner ring suburbs qualify. The program will be offered through May of 2017.

Cleveland was chosen as one of nine Focus Cities across the country. This is a great honor and opportunity to connect young people to their national park. Many children will step off the bus and experience the wonder of a national park for the first time in their lives.

In addition, every fourth-grader in America is eligible to receive an Every Kid in a Park pass, which is good for free admission to all public lands for them and their families for a year. This program began in 2016 as part of the Centennial celebration of the National Park Service.

Programming takes place at various sites within the national park and transportation will be reimbursed to the school.

To sign up or learn more about the educational programs visit: <https://www.conservancyforcvnp.org/everykidinapark>.

Contact: Jesús Sánchez, Education Director
Cuyahoga Valley Environmental Education Center (CVEEC)

Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park
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Peninsula, OH 44264

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Cuyahoga Valley
National Park

CONSERVANCY
for CUYAHOGA VALLEY NATIONAL PARK

Learning History Locally

The ESC of Cuyahoga County and the Cuyahoga Valley National Park's Environmental Education Center (CVEEC) are collaborating for "Learning History Locally," a workshop series that explores the history of the Ohio-Erie Canal and the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Fourth grade teachers, in particular, are encouraged to discover the historical and economic significance of the canal for the development of Ohio and the nation. Participants will receive educational materials and earn one graduate credit from Ashland University courtesy of CVNP.

Programs take place at the ESC on April 4th and continue on April 5th and May 17th at the Canal Exploration Center in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Register on the ESC website.

Click here for the flyer.

<http://www.esc-cc.org/EventAttachments/LearningHistoryLocally2017.pdf>

For information, contact:

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nadine.grimm@esc.org

216-901-4243

Jesús Sánchez, Education Director
Cuyahoga Valley Environmental Education Center (CVEEC)

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GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENT PROGRAM

Public Speaking Workshops

On February 1st and 8th, the ESC of Cuyahoga County hosted students from **Bedford City Schools**, **Richmond Local Schools** and **South Euclid-Lyndhurst City Schools** for a workshop on Public Speaking. Guest presenter was Lisa Ryan of Grategy.

For information about Gifted and Talented programs, contact:

Steve Rogaski,

Director of Human Resources and Pupil Services

Steve.rogaski@esc-cc.org

216-901-4210





GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENT PROGRAM

Students Excel in Their Knowledge of Presidents During Mr. Presidents' Competition

With the inauguration of our 45th president in January and Presidents' Day celebrated in February, United States presidents are top of mind for students across Northeast Ohio. On Tuesday February 28th, more than 135 students in grades 4-8 came to the ESC of Cuyahoga County to compete in the Northeast Regional Academic Games Mr. Presidents' Competition.

Organized by the ESC, students from **Bedford, Richmond Heights, Rocky River** and **South Euclid-**

Lyndhurst Schools participated. Students prepared an individual resource file in their individual classrooms on the presidents of the 20th and 21st centuries. Weighted questions were asked and the students identified the president by secret ballot using their resource file. At the end of the competition, scores were tabulated and the winners for each grade level, overall student winner, and winning school were announced.



RAMS - Cuyahoga County

Grade 4 Winners

- 1st Kayla Moore
Bedford
- 2nd Regan Scott
Bedford
- 2nd Tayler Drake
Bedford
- 3rd Kaiya Mayich
Rocky River



Grades 5 and 6 Winners

- 1st William Handrich
Bedford
- 2nd Moriah Armstrong
Bedford
- 2nd Erin Butler
South Euclid-Lyndhurst
- 3rd Giovonni Tripi
South Euclid-Lyndhurst



GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENT PROGRAM

Spelling Bee

Portage County students in grades 6-8 participated in the annual Spelling Bee on January 25th. School districts sent the finalists from their district bee to participate in the county spelling bee. The schools included **Streetsboro Middle School, Rootstown Middle School, Southeast Middle School, Field Middle School, St. Patrick School (Kent), James A. Garfield Middle School, Crestwood Middle School, Mogadore Jr. High School, Waterloo Middle School, and Henry Defer Intermediate School (Streetsboro).**

Portage County sent five finalists to the regional spelling bee which was held in Akron on March 11th. Both spelling bees were sponsored by the Akron Beacon Journal. At the regional bee in Akron, Bryce Heath from Crestwood Middle School came in second place.



Pictured from left to right
Ella Deevers, grade 7, Streetsboro Middle School
Randall Hatfield, grade 6, Field Middle School
Elena Kline, grade 8, Mogadore Junior High School
Bryce Heath, grade 6, Crestwood Middle School
Raeann Quiggle, grade 8, Crestwood Middle School



RAMS - Portage County

Math 24 Competition

Math 24 is a competition where students use special cards with numbers on them, using addition, subtraction, multiplication or division to make mathematical computations using the numbers on a card to make “24.” The tournament, held on February 24th, consisted of five rounds of play. Students competed against peers in the same grade from each of the districts represented. Most had already competed at their building and placed in the top three or four at that level. Those competing were already winners in their district.

At the end of the tournament, there was a winner at each grade level. Students who were finalists in the tournament each received a special Math 24 wristband and the grade level winners each received a medal. Every student who attended received a T-shirt designed by Alea Haines, a fifth grader from Davey Elementary in Kent.

Districts represented included **Aurora, Field, Crestwood, Kent, Southeast, James A. Garfield** and **Streetsboro**.

Quiz Bowl

The Portage Quiz Bowl League met on Monday, February 27th for the final three matches of the league season and to celebrate individual and team successes. Awards were given to several students. The 2016-2017 Portage Trails Quiz Bowl League varsity team winner was Cloverleaf.

The Portage Quiz Bowl Tournament was held on March 9th at the YMCA in Garrettsville. The varsity winner of the tournament was **Aurora** and the junior varsity winner was Cloverleaf.

School districts that participated in the league were **Aurora, Field, James A. Garfield, Southeast, Streetsboro, Mogadore, Rootstown, Western Reserve Academy, Biomed, Lake Center Christian, Kenston, Newbury, Ravenna, Cloverleaf** and **Waterloo**.



Math 24 Tournament Champions:

Grade 4: Charles Zhang from Davey Elementary in Kent
Grade 5: Savannah Rabe from Brimfield Elementary in Field
Grade 6: Nick Wesley from Crestwood Middle School
Grade 7: Seema Dhafer from Field Middle S
Grade 8: Makayla Pizzute from Field Middle

A group of **Windham** students joined the league for the tournament even though they have not had a team before. They came to try it out since they will be forming a team next year. **Kent High School** also participated in the tournament.



Students from Aurora, the tournament champions.

HIGHLIGHTS

Winter Professional Development Events

TEACCH Autism Training

On January 12th and 13th, the ESC of Cuyahoga County hosted an interactive workshop that provided participants with a basic working knowledge of TEACCH methodology (Treatment and Education of Autistic and other Communication Handicapped Children) and its role in working with students with autism spectrum disorders and other disabilities. Participants discussed and demonstrated physical structure of the learning environment and visual structure of learning materials. Participants also practiced structuring a variety of visual schedules and work systems. These types of structure are well researched and are effective interventions for students with ADHD, students on the autism spectrum, as well as those with cognitive, multiple and learning

disabilities. Using TEACCH strategies in working with other characteristics of autism spectrum disorders, such as communication, social skills, and behavior also were thoroughly addressed.



Mid-Atlantic Personalized Learning Conference

Participants in the Competency-Based Education (CBE) pilot were invited to present about their districts' innovative practices during the Mid-Atlantic Personalized Learning Conference held in Baltimore, MD from February 27th through March 1st.

District administrators from **Maple Heights**, Susan Jaroscak and Rae Smedley, highlighted a variety of programs that provide opportunities for district students to enrich their lives and develop skills of creativity, critical thinking, collaboration and communications. Through arts-infused activities such as dance at the elementary level, to a high school Inner Muse project where students discover cultural institutions in the community, to a middle school program for science students exploring medical and health pathways, students are out of the classroom learning from professionals and experts in their fields.

From **Perry Local Schools**, Amy Harker, Director of Student Services and College and Career Readiness, presented about design learning and student-centered projects, such as the new playground completely designed and implemented by students that provided a flexible space serving the needs of all within their district and community, including those with disabilities. Such examples of personalized learning emphasize the concepts of authentic, real-world experience, student voice and ownership, as well as transdisciplinary learning, as students were required to consider design of the physical space and needs of the members of their school and community, during which they applied their skills in writing, mathematics, communications, collaboration, and critical thinking at the highest levels.

Competency-Based Education Workshops



The ESC of Cuyahoga County hosted a Competency-Based Education (CBE) Workshop on January 18th with Stanford Center for Assessment, Learning & Equity (SCALE) and Envision Schools facilitators focused

on developing Portfolio and Capstone Assessment Systems. Participants considered development of career pathways for their districts that might include alternate forms of assessments for students to demonstrate mastery, such as demonstrations of growth via a portfolio of work within a discipline, senior final projects or capstone exams, exhibits, presentations to a panel of experts, or project-based or performance-based tasks and assessments. During this workshop, district leaders developed Graduate Profiles defining what their students should know and do as they graduate from high school and enter the next phase of their academic or work careers.

The ESC-coordinated CBE pilot is one of five CBE pilots statewide to develop innovative pedagogical practices, alternate methods of assessment, and to develop students' skills and competencies for lifelong success. Districts in the consortium include **Cleveland Heights-University Heights, Kirtland, Maple Heights, Orange, Perry** and **Springfield City**.

On February 22nd and 23rd, educators from the six districts collaborated with the Stanford facilitators for an overview of the Performance-Based Tasks and Assessments (PBAs) design process with specific focus on those developed by participating teachers for middle school science and math, algebra I, and American history. Educators from the first cohort who had implemented PBAs in their classrooms during Fall, shared student work samples for revision and enhancement with the cohort two educators who are beginning the process during Spring and continuing next academic year.

For information, contact
Nadine Grimm, Coordinator of 21st Century Learning
nadine.grimm@esc-cc.org
216-901-4243



Y HIGHLIGHTS

Winter Professional Development Events

Highly Qualified K-12 Math Teacher Course

On January 9th and February 16th, the ESC of Cuyahoga County hosted a Highly Qualified Teacher for Math K-12 course for teachers with and without previous study in the teaching of this subject matter. The course is designed to help participants build confidence in their ability to successfully teach math. Participants used online learning by posting responses to readings and responding to others in the course's discussion forums.



Writing Across the Curriculum

On January 25th, principals and central office administrators interested in implementing a successful school-wide literacy initiative came together for a workshop at the ESC of Cuyahoga County. Participants discussed the importance of content area reading and writing on achievement and how to easily incorporate argumentative and informational writing across all grade

levels and content areas. Administrators were actively engaged while presenters modeled content literacy strategies. Participants calibrated scoring techniques using standards-based rubrics, scored student writing samples, and used student writing as the basis for their professional learning.



NE Ohio Science Specialists Network

In September 2016, the ESC of Cuyahoga County launched the Northeast Ohio Science Specialists Network (NEOSS) primarily for Science educators, instructional coaches and curriculum specialists. On March 1st, the NEOSS met for the third time this school year to discuss Modeling Instruction. Educators Holly McTernan (**St. Edward High School**) and Jeremy Secaur (**Elyria High School**) facilitated an experience focused on Physical Science. Modeling Instruction can be applied to any Science discipline. The event was co-

hosted by Bob Glavan (ESC Mathematics and Science Curriculum Consultant) and Amy Roediger (**Mentor High School** Science teacher, instructional coach and recipient of the President Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.)

Interested educators are welcomed to visit the NEOSS Google+ platform. Once you access it via <https://plus.google.com/communities/115371651104908616650>, please ASK TO JOIN.



Y HIGHLIGHTS

Winter Professional Development Events

Strengthening Instructional Capacity through Collaborative Learning Teams



The ESC of Cuyahoga County and SST—Region 3 support the University of Dayton's Transition to Teaching (T2T) Program with recruitment, professional development workshops, and coaching. The T2T program is an educational opportunity for paraprofessionals with undergraduate degrees in non-teaching disciplines to become licensed educators serving in the large urban districts of Cleveland, Columbus, and Cincinnati.

The program also provides professional development for area educators for instructional improvement and for the enhancement of their building leadership (BLTs) and teacher-based teams (TBTs). On March 6th and 7th, 400 Northeast Ohio educators attended workshops led by Dr. Brian McNulty of Creative Leadership Solutions that addressed topics such as fostering cultures of inquiry, leading collaborative learning teams, cross-team feedback loops, and student learning progress.

Closing the Achievement Gap Series: Reaching All Learners

Regions across the state of Ohio have embarked on a process to move from a reactive, wait-to-fail model to a proactive service delivery that embraces the needs of all learners, especially students with disabilities and all of those who are marginalized. This work provides a sense of optimism that there is a way to invert the system and improve the learning for all. During the summers of 2012 and 2014, team members from the State Support Team (SST) Regions 3, 6 and 9, as well as district representatives, attended the National Leadership for Social Justice Institute held in Madison, Wisconsin. Participants affirmed their commitment to

learning to lead for equity and social justice across rural, urban and suburban districts.

As a result of various SST Teams attending this conference, they developed an action plan based on knowledge and skills learned at the institute. During summer 2015, Regions 3, 6, and 9 hosted an Ohio institute in Columbus with 18 districts attending, as well as personnel from the Ohio Department of Education. During summer 2016, regions across the state hosted east and west side institutes.

Disrupting Poverty Network

In January 2017, the ESC of Cuyahoga County and its partners, ASCD and The Ohio State University, were awarded an Excellence in Teaching Grant from the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation for “The Disrupting Poverty in Ohio Network: Building Leadership Capacity, Supporting Collaboration and Extended Professional Development.” The network, comprised of six Northeast Ohio districts (**Bedford City Schools, North Olmsted City Schools, Orange City Schools, Painesville City, Waterloo Local Schools** and **Wickliffe City Schools**), represents 26 schools and 14,967 students. It was developed based on feedback, survey results and focus group discussions following a two-day institute and case study conducted by ASCD in 2015.

The network proposes to break the poverty cycle by developing a Professional Collaborative Learning Environment (PCLE) that provides educational professionals with the opportunities to collaborate, examine and share ideas and resources that support high-quality leadership. This is accomplished through a PCLE as well as a framework of workshops, coaching, action planning, leadership teams, and online networking that support Ohio’s new standards for professional

development. The project follows the work of national experts William H. Parrett and Kathleen M. Budge in their powerful book *Turning High-Poverty Schools into High-Performing Schools*.

This framework supports schools to be more innovative and to “do business differently” with theory, research, and practical strategies focusing on three key areas: (1) Building Leadership Capacity (District Leadership Teams (DLTs) and Building Leadership Teams (BLTs); (2) Focusing on Learning (professional, student and system learning), and (3) Fostering a Healthy, Safe and Supportive Learning Environment. The framework supports the belief that all students, regardless of economic class, can meet high educational standards.

To learn more about the Disrupting Poverty in Ohio Network, contact:

Nadine Grimm, Coordinator of 21st Century Learning

Nadine.grimm@esc-cc.org or

Paula Kucinic, Director of Professional Development

Paula.Kucinic@esc-cc.org

[ASCD Case Study -Cuyahoga CountyESC.PDF](#)

To continue the momentum, during the 2016-2017 school year SSTs for Region 3 hosted a Closing the Achievement Gap Series featuring Bryan Dean, Elise Frattura, Katie Novak and Deborah Reed focusing on key areas:

- expand understanding and implementation of UDL
- reflect and examine, from a systems perspective, current service delivery models
- establish a culture of high expectations among all staff and students
- move from a deficit-based program model to an asset-based system to meet the needs of all learners

- learn about equity non-negotiables to guide decision-making at district, building and classroom levels.

The collaboration continues as we plan to move this work forward in 2017-2018 and beyond.

For information, contact

Michele Gaski, SST-3 Director

michele.gaski@esc-cc.org

216-446-3812

C Crooked River Math Teachers' Circle Meets at the ESC

The Crooked River Math Teachers' Circle met at the ESC of Cuyahoga County on January 21st and enjoyed some Golden Grahams...a mathematical treat! Teachers enjoyed breakfast, networking, investigating the Graham Sequence, Zometools and The Golden Ratio. Thanks to Nick Pilewski, visiting mathematician from Ohio University, for joining the group.

Check out the Crooked River Math Teachers' Circle new website at www.crookedrivermtc.org



NEOSTREAM Conference Highlights



Congresswoman Marcia L. Fudge, who represents the 11th District of Ohio, convened leaders of K-12 and higher education, non-profit, and the business community to present the first Northeast Ohio Science, Technology, Recreation, Engineering, Arts, and

Mathematics (NEO STREAM) conference from March 16th through 18th at Cuyahoga Community College and Corporate College East. Events focused on K-12 educators and middle school students, as well as the general community, with keynote speakers and activities highlighting educational and workforce connections and partnerships anticipating the future economic and social needs and resources of our region.

More than 20 districts are within the boundaries of the 11th District. The ESC of Cuyahoga County supported planning and the participation of educators and students from urban and suburban districts. Participants engaged in activities such as Career Connections for engineering and marketing, water resources and preservation



with One Great Lake, poetry inspired by nature with Traveling Stanzas, power and propulsion with NASA Glenn Research Center, the Many Faces of Nursing, and hands-on activities with mobile advanced manufacturing and FabLab units.

Keynote presenters challenged educators to learn and "to do" with their students with engaging and rigorous hands-on, relevant curriculum.



"Bridging the achievement gap in science, math, technology, and related fields is crucial to the future of our youth. Without the opportunity to develop the skills necessary to excel in STREAM-related jobs, our youth may find themselves less well-rounded and at a disadvantage, unable to compete and limited to a lifetime of low wages."

- Congresswoman Marcia L. Fudge

On March 7th, more than 25 educators and community members attended a Global Arts and Culture workshop at the ESC of Cuyahoga County focused on Japanese Culture. Teachers from **Akron, Avon Local, Bedford, Berea, Cleveland Metropolitan, Cleveland Diocese, East Cleveland, James A. Garfield, Lakewood, Rocky River, Stow-Munroe Falls, and Wickliffe Schools** had the opportunity to practice elements of shodo—Japanese Calligraphy—and learned about the three styles of pictograph fonts that the Japanese use for writing. Hiragana is learned first by children, while katakana is used for foreign words, and kanji is the most difficult style that originated 2000 years ago in China.

Mr. Haruhide Osugi, Japan Outreach Initiative (JOI) Coordinator, led the presentation. He is one of four coordinators in the United States for the next two years who is conducting community outreach and cultural activities about Japan through the JOI program that is administered by the Japan Foundation Center of Global Partnership and The Laurasian Institution. He currently teaches Japanese language and culture at Kent State University and is presenting programs at schools and community organizations. Kent State University and the ESC are planning a workshop series Teaching About Japan.

For information, contact:

Nadine Grimm, Coordinator of 21st Century Learning
nadine.grimm@esc-cc.org



15th Annual Milestones Autism Spectrum Disorder Conference

The Milestones Annual Autism Conference is a forum to serve the needs of families and individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), and professionals serving the autism community. Over the years, the conference has grown to over 1,000 attendees with more than 80 workshops and 50 exhibitors.

This year's 15th Annual Conference, to be held June 15-16th at the Cleveland I-X Center, is the region's must-attend event for family members, educators, therapists, clinicians and individuals with ASD. Attendees will have opportunities to learn evidence-based strategies for all ages, stages and abilities; network with leading experts; connect with high-quality exhibitors; and earn professional development credits in more than eight disciplines.

"Last fall I had contacted the Milestones team about presenting to our District Autism Teams on parent engagement," says Patti Porto, ESC Consultant for State Support Team—Region 3. "At each meeting we provide networking and sharing opportunities as well as professional development on topics the group

has identified. Last year Beth Thompson, Milestones' Program Director, addressed the teams around the area of transition and students with autism. They LOVED her presentation."

Milestones is proud to kick off the conference with A Special Evening with Temple Grandin, Ph.D. on June 14th at Playhouse Square. Dr. Grandin will inform and inspire us to help individuals with autism reach their full potential.

Register for the 15th Annual Milestones Autism Spectrum Disorder Conference at milestones.org. Purchase tickets to A Special Evening with Temple Grandin, Ph.D. at www.playhousesquare.org or call 216-241-6000.

For information, please contact:
Leslie Rotsky, Conference Director
lrotsky@milestones.org
216.464.7600 ext. 103

15TH ANNUAL

MILESTONES AUTISM Spectrum Disorder CONFERENCE

June 14-16, 2017 ★ Cleveland, Ohio

Featuring World-Renowned Autism Experts

PETER GERHARDT, EdD | BRIDGET TAYLOR, PsyD, BCBA-D | FRED VOLKMAR, MD

Special Evening Kick-off with



TEMPLE GRANDIN, PhD

Milestones
AUTISM
Resources



Curriculum Directors Luncheon

April 26, 2017

Sign-in: 10:30 - 11:00 am
Luncheon: 11:00 am - 1:30 pm
Lunch will be provided

ESC of Cuyahoga County Essex Place

6393 Oak Tree Blvd.
Independence, OH 44131

School districts today are charged with keeping our students engaged in an ever changing educational climate where curricular expectations continue to become more rigorous. The life of a curriculum director is not easy as there are many tasks on your plate. Come join us for a luncheon at the ESC where we share services and supports that are available to districts offered in a variety of flexible formats.

How can a game of Jenga teach us the importance of working together as a team and the value of networking?

What services can the ESC offer in the area of curriculum moving forward?

One lucky attendee will win a free day of Curriculum Consulting Services!

Registration for this event is located on our website at:
www.esc-cc.org (Choose Professional Development/Calendar of Events)

For Registration Assistance Contact:
Roni Staimpel roni.staimpel@esc-cc.org (216) 901-4233

Please register by April 21, 2017



Project AWARE Spring Programs

Youth Mental Health First Aid Training

May 10th at the ESC of Cuyahoga County, 8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

This program is offered for any adult who interacts with youth to learn the risk factors and warning signs of a variety of mental health challenges. Participants will learn a 5 –Step process action plan to support youth in an emotional crisis. Trainings are offered at the ESC or can be offered in your district.

Register via the ESC website at www.esc-cc.org, Professional Development, Calendar of Events or

To schedule in your district or community, contact:
Mary P. Wise, Project AWARE Ohio Coordinator

mary.wise@esc-cc.org

216-901-4201

Mental Health Awareness Summit

As part of Mental Health AWARENESS month during May, the ESC of Cuyahoga County and partners on Project AWARE OHIO are sponsoring a summit:

Schools and Systems Working Together

May 25th, 2017

8:00 -11:30 a.m. OR 12:30 -4:00 p.m.

ESC of Cuyahoga County

6393 Oak Tree Blvd.

Independence, Ohio 44131

Presentations Include:

School Anxiety and School Avoidance

Benjamin Kearney, Ph.D. Executive Vice President and CCO, Ohio Guidestone

Using Strategic Process to Address Behavioral Health in Schools

Jill Jackson and Emily Jordan, ODE Education Consultants presenting on:

Successes and Challenges in Cross-system Collaboration

Community Partners and Schools Panel

Mindfulness in Schools

Register via the ESC website at

www.esc-cc.org, Professional

Development, Calendar of Events

For information contact:

Mary P. Wise, Project AWARE Ohio Coordinator

mary.wise@esc-cc.org

or

Denise Pietrzak, System Navigator

denise.pietrzak@esc-cc.org

216-901-4201

NC North Coast Business Advisory Network Tours Eaton

Members of the North Coast Business Advisory Network had an exceptionally rare opportunity to visit the World Headquarters of Eaton located in the Chagrin Highlands on December 8th. Eaton is a global leader in power management solutions that make electrical, hydraulic and mechanical power operation more efficiently, reliably, safely and sustainably. Attendees learned about the products and services Eaton

provides globally, and how they are transforming their organizational learning for employees through their in-house Eaton University. The network is open to school administrators, educational leaders and business professionals to support student teaching and learning and opportunities for future careers in Northeast Ohio.





First Ring Superintendents' Collaborative Update

News from First Ring Academy

Cultivating Teacher Leaders . . . A First Ring Approach

How do districts cultivate teacher leaders? Teachers identified as having leadership qualities are often encouraged to pursue administration by their colleagues. For those teachers who do not want to pursue administration, how do districts develop their leadership abilities for the benefit of the educational community? As part of the First Ring Superintendents' Collaborative, which was started in 2000, First Ring Superintendents wanted to develop teacher leaders with a focus on the issues First Ring districts face such as poverty, mobility, diversity, etc. Whether it is providing instructional strategies, building relationships, or creating a culture that supports the academic and social emotional needs of students, teacher leaders are important.

Administrators collaborate with teacher leaders to support staff and students. Teacher leaders can be found on various teams in their buildings and district committees. For example, many teacher leaders are team leaders, members of the Building Level Team (BLT), or the District Level Team (DLT) which utilize their leadership abilities. To support districts' efforts in cultivating teacher leaders, the First Ring Superintendents started the First Ring Academy. District administrators are tasked with identifying those teachers who have leadership potential for participation in the

academy. Upon agreeing to participate in the academy, teachers meet monthly with other First Ring teacher leaders to discuss topics that are shared in First Ring districts.

Dr. Dennis Kowalski, Lead Instructor of the First Ring Academy, facilitates the monthly sessions. Under Dr. Kowalski's leadership, teachers are introduced to a variety of educational leaders who share their expertise and experiences pertaining to specific topics. Dr. Veronica Motley, Assistant Superintendent at **South Euclid-Lyndhurst City Schools**, spoke at the academy about Cultural Competence at the December 2016 meeting. Teachers were engaged in conversations that challenged their beliefs and led to self-discovery regarding how we view culture and its impact on education. In May, teacher leaders graduate from the academy. Not only do teachers leave with enhanced leadership skills, but a network of colleagues they can collaborate with in the future. **Brooklyn Schools'** academy participant, Michael Symanski, commented on his experience with the First Ring Academy. "I really enjoy learning with and from other teacher leaders like myself from similar districts. I am applying what I am learning here on a daily basis. This is a wonderful opportunity!"

News from First Ring Academy

Transforming Leadership - Responding to Change

On January 11th, the ESC of Cuyahoga County hosted the First Ring Collaborative Leadership Academy for educators identified by their respective districts as future leaders. The topic discussed was “Transformational Leadership - Responding to Change.” Rules, Brainstorming, Problem Solving, Consensus Building and Next Generation Learning were some of the areas addressed.



Superintendents' Meeting

Youth Mental Health First Aid

First aid kits dwell in every school building, fully loaded with band-aids, sterile gauze, antibiotic ointment, antiseptic wipes, and adhesive tape. Educators use them to heal the outward wounds of students on a daily basis, but what about emotional wounds? The wounds powerfully revealed throughout the day, maybe during a lesson, alone in a bathroom stall, or walking through the hall. The emotional battles students encounter have a tremendous impact on success in the classroom and school environment. It is something that **Berea Schools'** Transitional Care Coordinator Scott Barber knows both personally and professionally, after losing his 16-year-old daughter last year.

Berea City Schools and the Cleveland Clinic Foundation have created a Youth Mental Health First Aid program for districts to train the trainer this coming June. The Youth Mental Health First Aid project will provide vital training to adults working with students on how to recognize and respond to the warning signs of mental health and substance use disorders as well as how to connect students to appropriate service resources. The YMHFA Instructor training program is also supported by the Ohio

Mental Health Network for School Success (OMHNSS) and Sandy Hook Promise. This partnership will allow First Ring districts including; **Bedford, Berea, Brooklyn, Cleveland Heights-University Heights, Garfield Heights, Lakewood, Maple Heights, East Cleveland, Cuyahoga Heights, Euclid, Fairview Park, Parma, Richmond Heights, Shaker Heights, South Euclid-Lyndhurst, Warrensville Heights**, and the **Cleveland Metropolitan School District**.

“We are honored to come together to bring change and action,” said Berea Superintendent, Michael Sheppard, during the First Ring Superintendents' meeting held at Maple Heights High School on January 12th.

The Cleveland Clinic committed \$35,000 for Youth Mental Health First Aid Instructor Training to the Berea City School District. This funding will certify 30 individuals from districts throughout the First Ring as Youth Mental Health First Aid Instructors. As certified instructors, these individuals will be able to provide sustainability to mental health awareness, support, and initiatives.

Update from the ESC School Program

ESC School Program (formerly known as the Rose-Mary Center School) students have had a productive winter filled with many new activities and lessons. Learning how to cook delicious meals, playing recreational games, learning about money and making purchases, and taking a field trip to the Christmas Story house in their neighborhood were all highlights of the past few months.

Looking forward, the school will be hosting its spring formal on May 5th and will be celebrating five graduations on June 2nd. Diane, Charneshia, Brianna, Josh and Areej have all been a joy to have in the classroom. The staff will miss each of these students who brought special talents and qualities to the school. All five students will transition to adult provider services after graduation.



Ohio Online Learning Program

The Ohio Online Learning Program is a K-12 multi-option learning program designed to provide school districts the ability to retain students by making available a variety of quality instructional options and, in most instances, reducing district costs. It offers innovative, effective educational experiences in various formats that utilize state-of-the-art technology and rigorous curriculum. In its five years, the program has expanded to include offerings from Lincoln Learning Solutions and Apex Learning curriculum. Both curriculum providers offer the guidance and support of highly-qualified, certified instructors.

The program allows districts to offer over 250 fully online courses for full-time online students or single course students, newly-developed blended courses incorporating the best elements of both online and traditional classroom instruction, and more rigorous credit recovery courses. All full-time students receive a laptop and printer/scanner/copier combo. Students are assigned a student learning advocate for academic support and assistance for the duration of their enrollment.

Unique to other online school options, the Ohio Online Learning Program permits students to take advantage of district-sponsored extracurricular activities and other educational resources, as well as to graduate and receive a diploma bearing the district's name.

For more information, visit our website at www.OhioOnlineLearning.org or call 216-901-4239.

Mark Curtis, Director of Ohio Online Learning
Mark.curtis@esc-cc.org




TheCareerZoo.com recently interviewed Shannon McCreary, Online Curriculum and Instruction Specialist at Educational Service Center (ESC) of Cuyahoga County. She works with students who are part of the Ohio Online Learning Program. The program allows students to still be part of their local school district, while learning online at home. That means they can earn a local diploma and participate in district sports and extracurricular activities at their schools.

<http://www.thecareerzoo.com/what-does-an-online-teacher-do/>



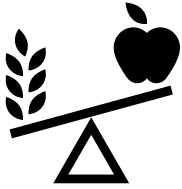
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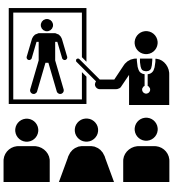
& the ESC of Cuyahoga
County introduce **EMIS
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